

News Notes

Hearings on Radioisotopes and Radiation in the Life Sciences Scheduled by Subcommittee

Public hearings on "Applications of Radioisotopes and Radiation in the Life Sciences" are scheduled for 27-30 March, according to Congressman Melvin Price, chairman of the Subcommittee on Research and Development of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. All sessions will be held in room P-63, the Old Supreme Court Chamber in the Capitol Building. The hearings will focus mainly on applications of atomic energy in medical research and agriculture, with particular emphasis on studies of biochemical processes, immunization, genetics, and related research undertakings in which radioisotope techniques are utilized.

The objective of the hearings is to bring up to date testimony presented at the 1956 Joint Committee hearings entitled "Progress Report on Atomic Energy Research in Medicine, Biology, Agriculture and Food Preservation." The agenda for the coming sessions has been drawn up with the assistance of a steering committee made up of outstanding scientists. Witnesses have been selected with a view to securing as balanced a coverage of the field as possible.

The major implications of all of the testimony will be summed up by a six-man panel on the last day of the hearings. The panel members are J. Totter of the University of Georgia, S. Hendricks of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, G. Leroy of the University of Chicago, D. L. Ray of the National Science Foundation, H. Bentley Glass of Johns Hopkins University, and J. Bugher of the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center.

Witnesses

The tentative list of witnesses includes W. D. Armstrong of the University of Minnesota, Cornelius A. Tobias of the University of California (Berkeley), Robert J. Hasterlik of the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital, Seymour Shapiro of Brookhaven National Laboratory, S. R. Olsen and L. D. Christenson of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Beltsville), Fred Andrews of Purdue University, H. L. Haller of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington), Vaughan Bowen of the Woods

Hole Oceanographic Institution, L. L. Thatcher of the U.S. Geological Survey (Washington), Allyn Seymour of the University of Washington, G. D. Novelli of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, F. J. Dixon of the University of Pittsburgh, H. J. Taylor of Columbia University, A. Benson of Pennsylvania State University, C. J. Borkowski of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and J. Tyson of Austin High School, Austin, Tex.

Mayan City in British Honduras To Be Studied by Ontario Museum

The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, has announced that an expedition is now in British Honduras making preparations for a 5-year research project at one of the jungle cities of the ancient Mayas. Archeologist William Bullard, who was recently appointed field director of the expedition, will return to Toronto later this spring to make recommendations on the site to be excavated.

Bullard joined the Ontario Museum from Harvard University. For 3 years he was in charge of the Harvard expedition at Barton Ramie, a Mayan site in British Honduras.

The new Canadian project is being financed by the Globe and Mail Publishing Company and a group of anonymous sponsors. The work is under the direction of the museum's department of ethnology. Digging will begin in a few months.

Mayan Rise and Fall Not Understood

The Mayan people, from about A.D. 300 to 900, were in the forefront of cultural progress in the New World, and much of their learning spread throughout Central America and beyond to other peoples. In an early period they developed a calendar which was superior to any in use elsewhere in the world, and their mathematical achievements were impressive—even greater than those of ancient Egypt.

The Mayas also built huge and magnificent cities, or ceremonial centers, with temples, courts, observatories, and academies, ruins of which now lie deep in jungle growth. Their pottery was often elaborately decorated, and the arts in general were well advanced.

The decline and eventual disruption of the Mayan society has often been blamed on the arrival of the Spaniards. However, the decline had already set in

before the first Spaniards arrived, and its causes are still not well understood. It is hoped that the Royal Ontario Museum's expedition will help to clear up the mystery.

The ruins to be excavated are expected to be similar to such famous Mayan sites as Tikal, in Guatemala, and Copan, in (Spanish) Honduras. The project has the full cooperation of the British Honduras government.

Another Caribbean Expedition

This will be the second Royal Ontario Museum expedition this year to go to a British Commonwealth country in the Caribbean. Randolph Peterson, the museum's curator of mammals, is at present in British Guiana collecting bats, jaguars, monkeys, armadillos, and other mammals. The museum hopes that scientific projects such as these will help to strengthen ties between Canada and her Commonwealth neighbors.

News Briefs

Joint Committee chairmen. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy has elected Representative Chet Holifield (D-Calif.) chairman and Senator John O. Pastore (D-R.I.) vice chairman for the 87th Congress. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 provides that the chairmanship of the Joint Committee shall alternate between the Senate and the House of Representatives from one Congress to the next.

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Kilauea volcano erupts. The Halemaumau fire pit in the center of Hawaii's Kilauea volcano began to erupt on 24 February. Lava rose as high as 150 feet. Kilauea is 4000 feet above sea level on the slopes of Mauna Loa in Hawaii National Park, on the southeast side of the island of Hawaii.

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Eclipse photographed. An expedition from the Harvard College Observatory made a photographic recording in Italy of the 15 February total eclipse. Donald H. Menzel, director of the observatory, was in charge of the expedition, which included Gail Moreton, director of the Lockheed Solar Observatory in Burbank, Calif. Three coronal cameras were used to determine the structure of the inner corona, structure of the outer corona, and polarization of the corona.

The Harvard scientists accepted the invitation of M. Cimino, director of the Monte Mario Observatory at Rome, to

join the Italian party at Imperia, on the Italian Riviera. Astronomers from France and Sweden also came to Imperia. The Harvard program was supported by the Geophysics Research Directorate of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories.

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Hospital's 150th year. As part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, a symposium will be held on 7 April. Bernard Katz, professor of biophysics at University College, London, will speak on the transmission of excitation within cells and between cells, and Giuseppe Moruzzi, professor of physiology at the University of Pisa, will discuss problems in the physiology of sleep. The meeting, which is open to all, will be under the chairmanship of Stephen W. Kuffler of the Harvard Medical School.

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Bacteriology society changes name. The Society of American Bacteriologists has changed its name after 61 years of existence. Effective immediately, the society will be known as the American Society for Microbiology. The new name is considered more descriptive of the broadened scope of the society's membership and interests. The American Society for Microbiology maintains its headquarters at 19875 Mack Ave., Detroit 36, Mich.

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Biology teaching materials. The AIBS Biological Sciences Curriculum Study has completed preliminary editions of 32 volumes of experimental materials for use in connection with biological education at the secondary school level. In large part, these volumes were prepared during the BSCS 1960 Summer Writing Conference at Boulder, Colo. While classroom use of most of these materials is currently restricted to the schools participating in the BSCS Testing Program, interested persons wishing to purchase individual copies of the materials can obtain further information from: *BSCS High School Biology*, Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.

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Scientists and humanists. A national conference concerned with the communication of ideas between scientists and humanists will be held on 17 April at New York University. Participants also will explore means by which new and complex ideas can be communicated to the general community.

The conference, which has the theme "Toward a Community of Learning," is to be conducted by NYU's Division of General Education and Extension Services. Among the speakers will be Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation; Clarence Faust, vice president of the Ford Foundation; and Perry Miller, professor of American literature at Harvard University.

Scientists in the News

The National Academy of Sciences has announced that its Jessie Stevenson Kovalenko Medal for outstanding contributions to medical science will be awarded this year to **Karl Friederich Meyer** in recognition of his achievements as an investigator, teacher, and administrator over half a century. Meyer, director emeritus and professor emeritus of the University of California's George Williams Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, will receive the medal at the annual meeting of the academy in Washington on 24 April.

Meyer's field of greatest interest has been the role of animals as hosts for vectors of human disease. He has made major contributions to the knowledge and control of psittacosis and plague. He is also credited with having developed a method to prevent botulism in the canning of foods, through proper bacteriologic precautions—a technological breakthrough for the canning industry. He also showed that mussels, during certain months of the year, are hosts to *Gonyaulax catenella*, a deadly protozoan associated with the destructive "red tides" off the Florida coast.



Karl Friederich Meyer

Australian scientific visitors to the United States and Canada include the following:

L. M. Clarebrough, Division of Tribophysics, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), University of Melbourne, Victoria, 16 February–20 March. His itinerary includes Atomics International, Los Angeles; University of California, Berkeley; University of Illinois, Urbana; University of Chicago; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; University of Pennsylvania; I.B.M. Research Center, New York; G.E. Research Laboratories, Schenectady; National Research Council, Ottawa; Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University; and Brown University. After 3 months in Europe he will return to the United States to take part in the Gordon Research Conference, which is to be held in New Hampshire from 26 June to 1 July.

R. A. Duncan, Upper Atmosphere Section, CSIRO, Camden, New South Wales, 19 March. He has received an invitation from the High Altitude Observatory, University of Colorado, to join the scientific staff for a year.

D. L. H. GIBBLINGS, Division of Electrotechnology, CSIRO, University Grounds, Chippendale, New South Wales, 7 March–9 April. His itinerary includes Palo Alto, Calif.; National Bureau of Standards in Boulder, Colo., and Washington, D.C. (12–17 March); G.E. Engineering Laboratories, Schenectady; Franklin Institute and the University of Pennsylvania; Harvard University; and National Research Council, Ottawa. He will also attend the I.R.E. convention in New York.

A. F. A. Harper, Division of Physics, CSIRO, University Grounds, Chippendale, 17 March–7 April. His itinerary includes the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C. (20–24 March) and Boulder, Colorado; Symposium on Temperature, Columbus, Ohio (27–31 March); University of Virginia; California Institute of Technology; and University of California, Los Angeles.

J. R. Philip, Division of Plant Industry, CSIRO, Canberra, 15 February. He is serving for 2 months as a visiting professor at the University of Illinois, where he is working in porous-medium physics in the department of petroleum engineering.

T. McKnight, Department of Agriculture and Stock, Brisbane, 15 March. His 3-month itinerary includes the University of California, Berkeley; Wash-

ington State University; Texas A. and M. College; Oklahoma State University; Kansas State University; University of Minnesota, St. Paul; University of Wisconsin; and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md.

Samuel M. Fox III, co-chief of the section on cardiodynamics of the National Heart Institute, has been appointed assistant director of the institute. He succeeds **Larry L. Terry**, now surgeon general designate of the Public Health Service.

In addition, **Richard H. Henschel**, assistant executive officer of the National Institutes of Health, has been named executive officer of the Heart Institute. He fills the vacancy left by **Robert H. Grant**, now assistant chief, Office of International Research Activities, NIH.

Bengt Borgstrom of the University of Lund, Sweden, will give the annual lecture of the G.I. Section of the American Physiological Society at 8 P.M. on 12 April at the Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City. The title of his lecture will be "Intestinal Digestion and Absorption in the Human."

Ralph Brown, former Bell Telephone Laboratories scientist, and **Ernst A. Guillemin**, Webster professor of electrical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, are among those named by the Institute of Radio Engineers to receive I.R.E. awards in 1961. Presentation of the awards will take place at the 1961 I.R.E. international convention banquet on 22 March at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York.

Brown will receive the Founders Award "for outstanding service to the I.R.E. and for outstanding contributions to the radio engineering profession through wise and courageous leadership in the planning and administration of technical developments which have greatly increased the impact of electronics on the public welfare." This is one of the two highest I.R.E. awards and is bestowed only on special occasions.

Guillemin will receive the Medal of Honor, the highest annual technical award in the field of electronics, "for outstanding scientific and engineering achievements."

Six additional awards will be presented.

Leo Esaki, consultant at the I.B.M. Research Laboratory, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (on leave from Sony Corporation, Japan) will receive the Morris N. Lieb-

mann Memorial Prize "for important contributions to the theory and technology of solid state devices, particularly as embodied in the tunnel diode."

Eiichi Goto, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, will receive the Browder J. Thompson Memorial Prize for his paper entitled "The parametron, a digital computing element which utilizes parametric oscillation," which appeared in the August 1959 issue of the *Proceedings of the I.R.E.*

Helmut L. Brueckmann, U.S. Army Signal Research and Development Laboratories, Fort Monmouth, N.J., will receive the Harry Diamond Memorial Prize "for outstanding contributions to the theory and technology of antennas."

Manfred Clynes, Rockland State Hospital, Orangeburg, N.Y., will receive the W. R. G. Baker Prize for his paper entitled "Respiratory control of heart rate: Laws derived from analog computer simulation," which appeared in the January 1960 issue of *IRE Transactions on Medical Electronics*.

Peter C. Goldmark, CBS Laboratories, Stamford, Conn., will receive the Vladimir K. Zworykin Prize "for important contributions to the development and utilization of electronic television in military reconnaissance and in medical education."

Britton Chance, professor and director of the Johnson Research Foundation, University of Pennsylvania, will receive the first Professional Group on Bio-Medical Electronics Prize Award in Memory of William J. Morlock, "for the application of a variety of advanced electronic techniques in a long-term program of fundamental biological research."

At the forthcoming meeting of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, in New York, to be held 27-29 June, **René J. Dubos**, member and professor, Rockefeller Institute, New York, will deliver the first annual Herman Beerman Lecture. Dubos's topic will be "Molecules, Social Systems and Dermatology." The lecture will be given on 28 June at 2 P.M. in the Barbizon-Plaza Hotel.

Donald W. Taylor, professor of psychology at Yale University, will discuss "Psychological Studies of Thinking" as a Sigma Xi national lecturer at a number of colleges and universities during March and April.

In the same period, **Lloyd M. Beidler**, professor of physiology at Florida

State University, Tallahassee, will also make a tour as a Sigma Xi national lecturer. He will discuss "Biophysical Approach to Taste."

Recent Deaths

Roland C. Davis, Bloomington, Ind.; professor of psychology at Indiana University and an authority on equipment design and techniques for electrophysiological recording of somatic responses; 23 Feb.

Frank S. Dolley, Los Angeles, Calif.; 76; a past president of the American Thoracic Surgery Association and a former professor of surgery at the Stanford University Medical School; had also taught at Columbia University, Yale University, and the University of Michigan; 25 Feb.

David G. Fables, Jr., Roselle, N.J.; 43; head of the biology department of Union Junior College, Cranford; a naturalist, he wrote a monthly column, "Afield in New Jersey," for 30 state newspapers; 22 Feb.

Elden B. Hartshorn, Lancaster, N.H.; professor emeritus of chemistry at Dartmouth College, who retired in 1954 after 41 years on the Dartmouth faculty; had served four terms as chairman of the chemistry department and had also been chairman of the division of sciences; 27 Feb.

Charles C. Norris, Philadelphia, Pa.; 84; professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School; served as director of the department of obstetrics and gynecology from 1927 until his retirement in 1941; was the author of four well-known medical books; 26 Feb.

Leon E. Smith, Grainville, Ohio; 66; Henry Chisholm professor of physics at Denison University since 1928; 22 Jan.

John H. Stokes, Philadelphia, Pa.; 75; professor emeritus of cutaneous medicine and syphilology at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine and Graduate School of Medicine; wrote a number of books on venereal diseases; 23 Feb.

William DeGarmo Turner, New York, N.Y.; 71; retired in 1946 as professor of chemical engineering at Columbia University; a technical director of Airkem, Inc., New York, makers of industrial deodorants; former professor and head of the department of the University of Missouri School of Mines; late Feb.